

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. For a database server, a computer program product for directing the database server to selectively release database system resources associated with a database system operatively coupled with the database server, the database server accessible by applications, the computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium, the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for receiving requests from one or more applications,

computer readable program code means for determining whether a specified application is submitting requests using an online protocol, and

computer readable program code means for returning defined error condition indicators to the specified application when the application is determined to be using the online protocol and when identified system resources are determined to be scarce,

whereby the specified application issues a commit when it is using the online protocol and one of the defined error condition indicators is returned to the application.

2. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the identified system resources include one or more of log tables and locks.
3. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the computer readable program code means for determining whether the specified application is submitting the requests using the online protocol is carried out by the database server receiving a request specifying that the online protocol is to be used and consequently setting an online flag in the database server.

4. The computer program product of claim 1, wherein the computer readable program code means for determining whether the specified application is submitting requests using the online protocol is carried out by the database server receiving a database statement including a defined keyword to indicate that the online protocol is being used.

5. A computer-implemented method for directing a database server to selectively release database system resources associated with a database system operatively coupled with the database server, the database server accessible by applications, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an online protocol indicator from an application;

returning a defined error condition indicator to the application when the application has forwarded the online protocol indicator and when identified system resources are determined to be scarce, and

receiving a commit statement from the application when a response from the database server is determined to comprise the defined error condition indicator.

6. The method of claim 5, in which the step of receiving, from the application, the online protocol indicator comprises the step of adding a pre-defined keyword to a database statement included in a request sent by the application to the database server.

7. The method of claim 5, in which the step of receiving, from an application, the online protocol indicator comprises the step of receiving, from the application, a specified command to the database server to set an online flag in the database server.

8. A computer program product for directing an application to access a database server, the database server adapted to selectively release database system resources associated with a database system operatively coupled with the database server, the database server accessible by applications, the computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code means for submitting requests to the database server,

computer readable program code means for indicating that requests are submitted using an online protocol,

computer readable program code means for monitoring responses from the database server for defined error condition indicators, when requests have been submitted using the online protocol, and

computer readable program code means for issuing a commit statement to the database server when a response from the server is determined to be a defined error condition indicator.

9. The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the computer readable program code means for indicating that the requests are submitted using the online protocol comprises computer readable program code means for including a specified keyword in a database statement included with a submitted request.
10. The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the computer readable program code means for indicating that the requests are submitted using the online protocol comprises computer readable program code means for submitting a request including a defined command to set an online protocol flag in the database server.